

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

No. 37
Winter
2006

A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AND THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

*Changes are in the wind.
Be sure to read below.*

Coordinator's Column

Challenge or Opportunity? — Adapting to Changing Times

Trees play a critical role in the health of Idaho communities and, by extension, our own health. The very positive effect they have on air and water quality, stormwater management, energy conservation and personal health yields substantial returns on investment, while increasing property values and improving commerce. The technical, financial and educational assistance we provide seeks to help cities develop and improve local tree management programs that maximize these benefits.

As we look at what Idaho communities have accomplished in the way of improved tree care, the results are very encouraging. Seventy-one Idaho communities – 1/3 of all cities in the state – have qualified for Tree City USA awards. Two thirds of Idaho's urban population lives in the 18 communities that have a community forester; and 64 other communities are in various stages of developing a continuous, systematic community forestry program.

At the same time, priorities are changing at all levels of government. Federal funding for community forestry nationally has been reduced and, not surprisingly, so has the funding for Idaho's program—a 20% reduction in 2006. Accommodating this reduction will be a challenge, but it's also an opportunity to evaluate our program and seek ways to be more effective.

At the January meeting of the Idaho Community Forestry Council, its members made the following program observations and recommendations:

- Technical assistance to communities provided by the three Community Forestry Assistants is extremely valuable. An enhanced level of assistance should be provided to targeted communities—those ready to make a long-term commitment toward developing their programs to a significantly higher and, hopefully, sustainable level. This new level of assistance may include working hand in hand with these cities to complete inventories and management plans and assist with plan implementation. Providing this level of assistance to the selected cities will result in less help to some others. It is our hope that communities with already-strong programs will also serve as resources to others, helping us meet the challenges.
- Financial assistance to communities is very beneficial, but has not been particularly focused. To accommodate the funding reduction, the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program will, unfortunately, be eliminated. However, \$10,000 of the U&CF grant monies will be set aside to help the targeted cities mentioned above with projects that will help them develop their pro-

grams more fully. The Community Transportation Enhancement Grant Program will continue intact.

- No longer can we rely on planting and caring for trees as an amenity. The purely aesthetic aspect of trees is relatively unimportant given the issues our communities are struggling with. However, trees can be extremely effective tools to address issues most critical to cities—particularly air and water quality, energy conservation and human health and safety. We will seek out new partners as necessary and redouble our efforts to enhance our educational efforts and technical assistance in these directions.
- Attempting to secure state funding to assure the long-term continuation of this valuable program remains a priority of the council.

Though we face some challenges, we nonetheless have many opportunities to make very positive differences in Idaho's communities and the lives of our residents. Our commitment to high quality service remains strong. I welcome your comments and suggestions as we move forward.

— David Stephenson
Community Forestry Coordinator

Avoid Over-Planting Spruce

In a region where winter arrives early and stays late, evergreens offer a welcome splash of color to an otherwise dreary landscape. Spruce, pine, fir, juniper, yew, and arbovitae all provide wintertime benefits. They act as living snow fences, windbreaks, and wildlife habitat, as well as offering shade, beauty and cleaner air. Including evergreens is important when selecting trees to plant. However, it is important to avoid over-use of a single species to protect against insect and disease infestation.

Colorado (or blue) spruce is by far the most commonly planted evergreen tree in Southern Idaho. In many cities, its popularity is creating a monoculture that puts the health of the community forest at risk. Admittedly, Colorado spruce is extremely hardy and withstands wind and severe temperatures. It also tolerates lawn irrigation while other evergreen trees would prefer having "drier feet." But with popularity comes risk. Colorado spruce has many natural enemies. Most are not a problem when species numbers are insufficient to sustain a major outbreak. But when a host

tree is overused, insects and diseases can become major problems. In the case of Colorado spruce, these include cytospora canker, rhizosphaera needle cast, Cooley spruce adelgid, spider mites, spruce budworm, spruce needle miner, and worst of all, the ips beetle.

To avoid the problems that Colorado spruce are beginning to present in Southern Idaho, consider choosing one of the many other evergreen trees that perform well in our area. These would include Englemann spruce, Serbian spruce, Black Hills spruce, Norway spruce, and white spruce. Many pines are also under-used, and require less water than spruces. Pines that deserve more attention are Austrian, limber, bristlecone, Scotch, ponderosa, Swiss stone, and rust-resistant cultivars of western white pine – our state tree.

—Gerry Bates, Community Forestry Assistant

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Idaho Community Trees is published four times a year by the College of Natural Resources, Department of Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844. Direct editorial matters to James R. Fazio, Editor: 208/885-7209; fax 208/885-6226; e-mail jfazio@uidaho.edu.

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Lewiston's Bowman Retires



Mike Bowman, now retired, created a model urban forestry program for the City of Lewiston.

James R. Fazio

Lewiston's city forester, Mike Bowman, retired in November after 15 years of service. Mike was instrumental in completing the city's first street tree inventory and creating a shaded parking lots program, public education programs that involved schools, service clubs and TV spot announcements, the state's first county-wide Tree City USA, and other projects that made Lewiston a leader in community forestry. Mike was especially noted for his ability to form partnerships that turned otherwise impossible tree-related projects into reality.

This is actually Mike's second retirement. He joined the Lewiston Parks and Recreation Department after retiring from a long career in forestry and fire management with the USDA Forest Service and BLM. Mike plans to continue working as a consultant in urban forestry doing business as Bowman & Associates. He is a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists and specializes in tree appraisals, risk evaluation, and management planning. Mike will also continue as a member of the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory Council.

How to Stay Current with Research

Research is showing the way to improved methods in urban forestry and tree care. One easy way to keep up with techniques that can save money for your community, reduce safety risks, and improve the health of your trees, is to visit the electronic newsletter produced by the USFS Center for Urban Forest Research and posted at the site of the Pacific Southwest Research Station. The web address is: www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/newsletter.shtml. You will find both current and past issues of this useful newsletter.

Grants Awarded for 2005-06

Idaho communities awarded grants this year through the Idaho Department of Lands Community Forestry Program are shown below, with local matching funds in parentheses:

Urban & Community Forestry Grants

(Source: USDA Forest Service)

- Coeur d'Alene, Hayden & Post Falls partnership, \$2,400 (\$20,750) Area-wide education program.
- Ashton, \$4,000 (\$2,800) Management plan.
- Caldwell, \$500 (\$6,000) GPS unit to help with tree inventory.
- Coeur d'Alene, \$1,000 (\$1,350) First 12 street trees in a downtown planting project.
- Hayden, \$3,100 (\$5,441) Tree maintenance guide and employee training.
- Iona, \$990 (\$791) Plant trees on newly donated park land.
- McCall, \$1,378 (\$1,626) Employee training and preparation for ISA certification.
- Nampa, \$2,180 (\$1,059) Brochure on city forestry services, ordinance, recycling, etc.
- Parma, \$1,000 (\$3,126) Prune 24 high risk trees in two city parks.
- Post Falls, \$2,912 (\$3,470) Labels/signs for arboretum.
- Riggins, \$3,500 (\$1,313) Tree inventory and planting plan.
- Sandpoint, \$3,500 (\$5,755) Management plan for street and park trees.
- Twin Falls, \$4,000 (\$4,169) Intern to develop database of public trees.

Community Transportation Enhancement

(Source: Federal Highway Administration & Idaho Transportation Dept.)

- Blackfoot, \$15,000 (\$13,980) Plant traffic sound barrier and enhance walkway/bikeway.
- Buhl, \$10,905 (\$2,297) Plant two blocks of city entrance.
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe, \$12,116 (\$2,395) Landscape, with irrigation, parking lot and Plummer entrance to Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes bikeway.
- Gooding, \$14,762 (\$5,388) Enhance entrance to city with signs, lights and trees.
- Hayden, \$15,000 (\$43,950) Plant 131 street/swale trees, including irrigation system.
- Heyburn, \$3,706 (\$2,332) Expansion of educational arboretum.
- Lewiston, \$15,000 (\$14,841) Plant 66 trees, with irrigation, along bike trail.
- McCall, \$7,666 (\$2,845) Screen airport hangers from highway and enhance airport.
- Menan, \$15,000 (\$38,707) Plant trees along two main transportation corridors.
- Nampa, \$15,000 (\$26,353) Plant trees, with irrigation, along ¼ mile of bike trail.
- Peck, \$12,232 (\$5,613) Trees, irrigation and hardscape improvements in 6 block area.
- Rexburg, \$14,998 (\$5,415) Plantings to enhance entrance to city.
- Sugar City, \$10,615 (\$4,332) Plantings to enhance entrance to city.

Calendar

February 25 and April 22, 2006

Spring Arborist Series, Orem, Utah. (Scott Bunker, Utah Chapter, ISA, 801/ 852-6920 or www.utahurbanforest.org/events/events_spring_arbapp.htm)

March 28, 2006

Roots: Where Tree Planting Begins, Boise, ID. (Pacific NW Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture (PNW-ISA), 503/874-8263 or www.pnwisa.org/WI05.pdf)

April 10, 2006

Structural Pruning of Young Trees, Spokane, WA. (PNW-ISA, 503/874-8263 or www.pnwisa.org/WI05.pdf)

March 16 – 17, 2006

Tree Care and Arborist Training Workshop, Twin Falls, ID. (Dave Kiesig, College of Central Idaho, 208/732-6431 or dkiesig@csi.edu)

April 28, 2006

ARBOR DAY IN IDAHO!

July 29-August 2, 2006

International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show, Minneapolis, MN. (Jessica Marx, 888/472-8733 visit www.isa-arbor.com)

Upcoming Arborist Certification Exams

April 15, 2006 – Spokane, WA— Afternoon exam
June 3, 2006 – Twin Falls, ID—Morning exam
July 8, 2006 – Boise, ID—Morning exam

Upcoming Certified Tree Worker Exams

July 8, 2006 – Boise, ID

For information or to register, contact:
Pacific Northwest Chapter, International Society of Arboriculture at 503/874-8263 or 217-355-9411 or email: info@pnwisa.org.

Visit our Website

For more information about trees and tree care in Idaho, visit and bookmark www2.state.id.us/lands/bureau/community_forestry/home.

- Technical information & help
- Certification
- Events
- Grants
- Tree City USA
- Arbor Day Poster Contest
- Newsletter, Current & Past Issues
- ... and much, much more!



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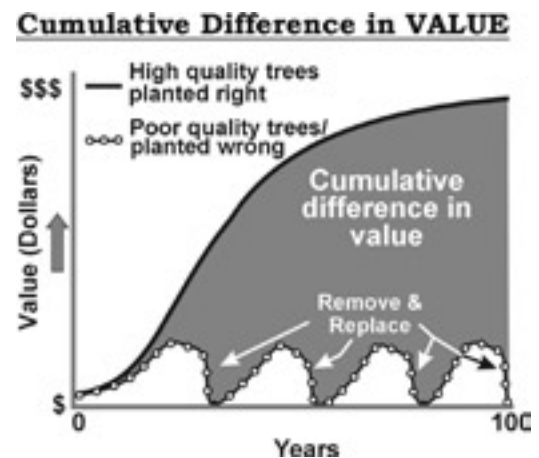
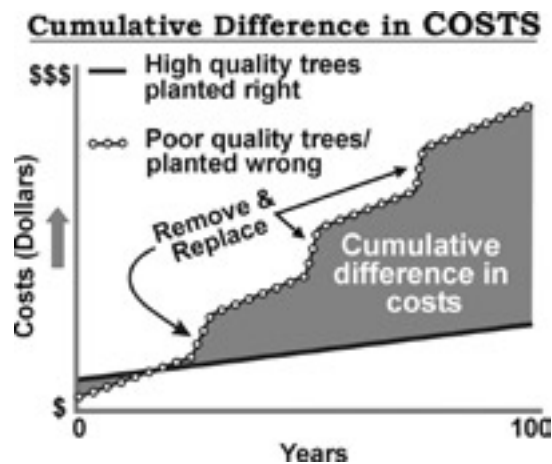
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Tree tip

Study these graphs and it becomes clear why it makes good economic sense to demand high quality planting stock and to make sure trees are planted correctly. Contact the IDL Community Forestry Program for free literature before planting.



Graphs courtesy of David Stephenson